

3 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Lawrence F. Barker

SUBJECT : Meeting with [LITAMIL-9], 30 Jan 1964

HMMA-23018
4/MAKH/64

1. A meeting with [L-9] took place from 2010 until 2145 hours 30 Jan 1964 at the safe apartment. [L-9] was in surprisingly good spirits, showed none of his usual depression.

2. [L-9] reported on the following:

a. On Saturday 18 Jan at the usual Embassy staff meeting, several new assignments were passed out. A "three month plan" was announced and during this period staff members, in addition to their usual duties, will prepare special reports on several topics. Raul APARICIO will do a report on the National University -- physical plant, student body, activities, ways in which the Cuban government can exert influence, etc. [L-9] will do a similar report on the National Institute of Fine Arts (Bellas Artes). Dra. MACHADO will do a report on countries which have diplomatic relations with Cuba -- emphasizing how contact with representatives here in Mexico of such countries may be parlayed into something more worthwhile for the Castro government. Rogelio RODRIGUEZ was given an assignment as Political Reporting Officer.

At this meeting Guillermo RUIZ of the Commercial Office -- who has recently been emerging as a fanatical Fidelista -- spoke out about the recent accord between the USSR and Cuba, saying that it was convenient for the USSR to keep on the good side of Cuba and thus keep a dagger in the back of the imperialists. Ambassador HERNANDEZ Armas, somewhat taken aback by RUIZ' language, pointed out that the relationship between the USSR and Cuba is based, above all, on the highest principles of international friendship.

b. Last Wednesday (29 Jan) a Soviet official, Boris T. RUDENKO, visited the Cultural Department and spoke with APARICIO and [L-9]. [L-9] took pains to "be a good Communist" during this encounter. (This conversation was picked up by [MAYTRAP]) RUDENKO was also at the home of Horacio FLORES Sanchez on the 28th after the Marti homage session at the Cuban Cultural Institute.

c. A Bolivian woman -- name possibly VILLALBA -- was recently at the Hotel Oxford with 7 children, waiting to go to Cuba to join her husband who works there. [L-9] believes she has gone on to Cuba.

d. On 17 January Cuban delegates to the CEPAL Conference visited the Embassy and spoke with Embassy employees. One of these delegates, referring to the Nicaro plant in Cuba, said that only 12 engineers of the original 37 remained. Of these, a man named (fau) PRESILLA was still doing an excellent job although he is physically in poor condition. The Nicaro plant specifically, and technicians throughout Cuba in general, are having a hard time with the decimal system used by the USSR in its technical equipment. The delegates said that it was now apparent that Cuba will definitely plan to base its economy on sugar -- that Fidel CASTRO had at last made this quite clear.

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- e. (fnu) Guilia Inchaustegui told APARICIO the Embassy the other day that 60 homosexuals had been "cleaned out" of MINREI.

f. On 23 January Oscar CONCEPCION was standing at the gate when the mailman arrived with a letter for the Ambassador. This letter was from Lic. DIAZ Ordaz — CONCEPCION said, "I saw it with my own eyes, the envelope had DIAZ Ordaz' name on it."

- g. On 29 Jan a Venezuelan woman named Susana BEJARANO came to the Embassy. She was staying at the Hotel Virreyes, Room 402. She was trying to sell exhibition rights to a film entitled "Twist y Crimen" which had been filmed in Venezuela and shown only twice before the government shut it down and prohibited future showings, labelling the film as of "improper social tendencies." BEJARANO said that she planned to stay in Mexico about a week and would also contact the Soviet and Czech Embassies in an effort to sell the film and recoup some of the cost of producing it. She was told that her proposition would be relayed to Havana.

- h. A young Cuban doctor, named Silvanio REYES, is in Mexico City and trying to return to Cuba. He was in the Embassy on 29 Jan and has been there before.

- i. The Marti commemoration at the Institute was a big success. A lot of people showed up. The speakers were Emmanuel CARBALLO, Raul APARICIO, Caston MELO, Ernesto MEJIA Sanchez, and Ernilo ABREU Gomez.

- j. After the affair at the institute a group of those present went to the home of Horacio FLORES Sanchez of Bellas Artes. CARBALLO did not want to go for some reason unknown to [L-9]. While at FLORES place, [L-9] saw that Raul PEREIRA "Raulito" seemed very interested in FLORES Sanchez and asked a number of questions about him. [L-9] says that FLORES is a well known homosexual. (LIENVOY shows that Raul PEREIRA is also homosexual) possibly

- k. Several days ago Ana Berta ORTEGA de ARANGO came to visit the Cultural Department. She was accompanied by the brother of the Mexican Berta MAGALLON — he was a dancer. She said she is director of the "Tita" dancing studio located at Monte Ararat, corner of Sierra Lecna, Lomas Barrilaco. She would like to go to Cuba to soak up some culture.

- l. At 1330 hours 21 Jan Danilo PEREZ Recalado, a Honduran, visited the Cultural Department. He lives in Puebla at Puebla 13 Sur 3307-13. Later on he spoke with Rogelio RODRIGUEZ and told [L-9] afterwards, "Rogelio doesn't seem to trust me."

- m. The Brazilian-Polish Engineer [L-9] met at the airport has gone on to Cuba. This man (BETIDE) is "very correct, does not say much, serious."

- n. After Teresa PRDENZA was seen off at the airport, Oscar CONCEPCION "revealed" that she had been fired on orders of President DORTICOS who got tired of receiving reports that a famous international sex deviate (famosa "tortillera" internacional) was working at the Embassy. DORTICOS fired her for "immoral conduct."

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o. As Teresa PROENZA was leaving APARICIO gave her a personal letter addressed to DORTICOS, Teresa [L-9] about this but warned him not to tell anyone. APARICIO is a close friend of DORTICOS.

p. On Wednesday and Thursday (29 and 30 Jan) URBETA, an employee of the Commercial Section, was grumbling about the "kids" who supposedly work there — RUIZ, CONCEPCION, and GARCIA — but who can't seem to get anything done and only succeed in messing up paper. URBETA was quite disgusted.

q. Guillermo RUIZ has been showing himself to be quite aggressive politically in staff meetings. He appears to be a violent partisan of the Castro regime.

r. MIRABAL has been less aggressive than before, has recently been down in the dumps and has been spending a lot of time talking to Dra. MACHADO. The Ambassador told Dra. MACHADO that MIRABAL and Mexican food don't get along together.

s. Felipe ROJAS, Mexican employee of the Cultural Section — who handles distribution of Castro propaganda to people who visit the Embassy — has been given a desk in the Cultural Section. This man only earns about 5 — 600 pesos per month. [L-9] SAYS THAT ROJAS COULD BE BOUGHT — IS AVAILABLE! He is about 28-30 years old.

t. Cotty SOLORZANO has returned from Cuba. There is some talk that she might marry Jesus SOTO, in Cuba, although she is much older. SOTO is some sort of leader — perhaps a labor leader there.

u. On Sunday 26 Jan a group of Chinese acrobats paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy. The leader of this group said that Senator Manuel MORENO Sanchez would soon be going to China.

v. On Monday 27 Jan Dolores DE LA MORA was at the Embassy. She said she hopes to go to the US to cover the Johnson-Lopez Mateos interview. She came with Doris HEDGES, divorced wife of a former American Ambassador to Brazil (now wife of a senator). Dolores said that DIAZ Ordaz and Ambassador HERNANDEZ Armas are great friends and that she had seen an envelope which DIAZ Ordaz sent to the Amb. She appeared to be quite upset that Victor RICO Galan had been invited to Cuba but that she had not. She wants to interview Fidel CASTRO again. HEDGES is an American citizen, lives: Insurgentes Sur 724, P.O. No. 23-41-54. One daughter: Ma. Teresa

w. An American named Fred BALDASARE, a swimming champion, has been in the Embassy trying to implement his plan to swim from Cuba to Florida and set a new world record. APARICIO remarked to [L-9] that if they let this nut train a Cuban to make this swim (as he wants to do) it would probably result in thousands of Cubans doing the same thing to get out. (LIENVOI and MATRAP have picked up BALDASARE).

x. Some youngsters from a group called the "Movimiento Cultural Mexicano" have been trying to establish good contacts with the Embassy. The president is Jose TOVAR, phone 23-24-39. The Vice-President is Rafael AGUILAR, phone 21-17-63, address Avenida Central No. 266-8, Colonia Pro Hogar. The Subsecretary of Organization is Vladimir HERNANDEZ, phone 13-36-73. They had their first "Cultural Festival" on 26 July 1963 "as proof of the

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extent of their love for the Cuban people." [L-9] does not know much about this group, feels it bears investigating.

3. [L-9] asked B to get him a book about the painter Arshile GORKY. This book is published by the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1957. It will be ordered from HQS separately.

4. The meeting had to be cut short since B had to go elsewhere to meet and assess an agent prospect who was planning to leave Mexico City the next morning. Accordingly, it was agreed that another meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 February at 2000 at the safe apartment. [L-9] will be paid his January salary at that time.

Lawrence F. Barker